

Beaver Island Association Mission

- 1 Represent the combined interests of our membership on issues that affect Beaver Island's fundamental character and beauty, the reason for our attraction to the island.
- 2 Work with tribal, state and local governments to support visitors and resident's views, concerns and investments by:
 - Providing a forum for discussing island governance and property taxes
 - Representing membership concerns through township government liaison.
- 3 Foster and support economic growth consistent with preserving Beaver Island's natural beauty and quality of life by advocating for environmental and economic sustainability.
- 4 Support preservation and wise use of Beaver Island's natural resources, plants, and wildlife by:
 - Proposing environmental conservation policies and / or methods
 - Collaborating with tribes, environmental and wildlife organizations, schools, and government agencies
 - Sponsoring environmental education programs and public lectures and presentations
 - Monitoring and controlling invasive species
 - Cleaning up beaches and campgrounds
 - Helping with forest fire prevention
- 5 Provide information to our members and the community by publishing a semi-annual newsletter and a continuously updated website.

Background

BIA is committed to preserving the natural resources and beauty of Beaver Island, and promoting economic growth and stability of investments made by Island property owners.

This brochure provides information related to BIA's current and planned programs. The BIA believes that a comprehensive plan is vital to achieving and sustaining its goals. This plan evolved from BIA initiatives associated with the economic and environmental sustainability of the island. The plan has three components:

- Identify Island assets to be sustained
- Identify potential threats to those assets
- Articulate a plan to preserve, enhance and manage those assets.

This brochure provides an overview of the plan's programs. It is designed to solicit feedback from BIA members and the community before further work is undertaken. We encourage conversation for a final product that can reflect goals of both the community and individual property owners to preserve, managing and enhancing the island assets we all value.

The Process

The planning process began by examining past environmental and economic plans obtained from public meetings on the island, and current, past, and future BIA initiatives. Based on content and recommendations from these sources and collaboration with off-island NGOs and government agencies, guiding principles were identified on which to base future planning. Principles include:

1. Business and population growth to sustain a viable island economy.
2. Infrastructure and industry for food, supplies, repairs, energy and transportation.
3. Services for healthcare, medical emergencies, K12 educations, fire prevention and police.
4. *Adaptiveness*; the plan contains mechanisms for checking the effect of each component that is enacted so changes can be made when needed.
5. Key Indicators to measure the effectiveness implementations. Key indicators reflect measures for a viable economy and quality of Island life; e.g., population, tourist dollars, home

sales, pollution levels, species at risk, amounts of invasives, and size of habitats.

In addition to identifying programs, the process led to deeper understandings of Beaver Island's uniqueness, isolation, and relatively pristine status that make the island a desirable site for continued study. This desirability can be used to the Island's advantage by attracting retirees, virtual employees and environmental researchers, making Beaver Island part of their plans to the benefit of the Island's economy and long-term development.

The Plan

The purpose of the plan is to promote and support a sustainable economy and ecology. In creating this plan for Beaver Island, the BIA Board of Directors agreed to:

- Pursue island community priority focus areas.
- Increase home ownership by making Beaver island an attractive, affordable place to work, play, and educate children.
- Base decisions upon quality of community and economic analysis.
- Manage populations of flora and fauna and natural communities.
- Provide and promote safe and enjoyable hunting and other wildlife-related activities.
- Conserve and encourage biodiversity and protect endangered and threatened species.
- Promote quality healthcare and emergency services.
- Inform island residents and visitors about the value of wildlife and habitats.
- Develop partnerships to create and implement programs.
- Perform all activities in a professional manner.
- Preserve, use, and manage habitat and all wildlife, as a public trust resource.
- Incorporate public opinion throughout our process.

BIA Programs

The plan proposes to manage four programs with evaluation measures, which in turn contain multiple project areas to preserve natural resources and promote economic sustainability. A committee manages each program.

Ecology and Recreation

Environment and Wildlife

Maintain and preserve, beaches, forests, endangered species, nature preserves, and wildlife. Provide invasive species education

Recreation and Trails

Support Hunting, Fishing, Birding, Boating, Camping, Trails, Waterways, Botany, and Night Skies

Economic Sustainability

Maine Island Institute Team

Property Tax Monitoring

Communications

Internet, cell phone coverage, radio, and television

Collaboration

NGOs, Townships, Charlevoix Count, Tribes, State Agencies, Universities, and Community Center

Services and Infrastructure

Healthcare

BI Rural Health Center, BI Emergency Medical Services, Charlevoix Area Hospital, Munson Hospital, telemedicine, and aging-in-place

Education

Beaver Island Community School, mentoring, tutoring, teaching, virtual technology, early childhood education (0-5), coastal resilience options, CMU, and permaculture

Other Services

Fire department, police, transfer station, zoning, road maintenance and signage.

Infrastructure

Airport, marina, government buildings, EMS vehicles, and affordable housing.

Administration and Promotion

Administration

Membership, finances, and taxes

Grant Writing

Promotion

Newsletters, web site, radio, brochures, plans

Influencing public local, state and federal policy in program areas is crucial. Deep and committed partnerships in all these endeavors are important to be successful in achieving the goals of this plan.

The plan promotes citizens, non-government organizations, and government agencies partnering to conserve forests, habitats, endangered species, native wildlife populations, and responsible recreation while creating a sustainable economic environment.

Brochure created by the BIA Board of Directors

The BIA envisions an increasing population, a sustainable island economy and plant and animal populations and their habitats that are self-sustaining. We would encourage our members to understand the relationship and value of wildlife and habitat to our health, social, and economic wellbeing.

Your feedback on these issues would be appreciated. More information is available at: www.BeaverIslandAssociation.org

To participate, email your name, address and phone number:

BeaverIslandAssociation@gmail.com

Beaver Island Association

The BIA Board revised this brochure to solicit feedback from its membership and the community on the viability and appropriateness of BIA programs.



The vision stated in Beaver Island's Master Plan adopted by the townships is supported by actions of the townships and their citizens: (the Island) "will be a place:

- That revalues the natural environment and wishes to pass it along to future generations with little alteration.
- That is a quiet, serene hinterland where the evidence of settlement is not visible to the passerby.
- Where people have the choice to walk, ride bikes, or drive if they choose.
- Where buildings and manmade things seem to be part of and integral to the natural landscape rather than superseding it."